

## Salvation and Shepherds (Luke 2: 8-20)

Someone sent me an email with a video of Larry "the Cable guy" reading a politically correct version of "Twas the Night before Christmas". I don't know much about him...

- He starts out the story "Twas the night before... uh... 'Twas the night before... a non-denominational winter holiday." That's what seems to have happened... But the mention of the word should remind us of the Luke scene about Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and Shepherds... No Christmas story complete w/o Shepherds, No children's Christmas play done right w/o that group of bathrobe boys sitting by a fire. This account of the shepherds, I believe, gives us a wonderful picture of God's salvation for all mankind.

I believe that if we follow the foot steps that took them to the baby Jesus, it will lead us to the Saviour Jesus.

### I. The Gospel Was Revealed to Them (Vs 8-14)

A. Immediately after verse 7 we are whisked away to a nearby field. Shepherds doing what they have been doing for 1000's of yrs. Shepherding was a despised job... if you had important news... 1 Cor 1:26-29

B. It was Forceful - These shepherds weren't peering into the heavens looking for this to happen. This news of... was thrust upon them. "Came upon them" to me close at hand to before, by or over. Most people aren't expecting to talk about such a heavy or profound subject as eternally but suddenly.

C. It was Fearful - There was a fear associated with the relaying of this message. The sight of the Glory of Lord made them fearful. This is essential in gospel communication, sinner must be caused to tremble before the holiness and power of God. Trembling is born from violation of His law.

D. It was Favorable - But God does not leave  
sinful man in his fearful condition w/o hope. vs 10 Fear  
not good tidings to you! The Messenger has "good news" Gospel  
vs 11. There is a Saviour! A Deliverer has arrived. I say the  
same to you (No hole, no wings,) but I bring the same glad tidings!

E. It was Findable - vs 12 They not only told  
them that this Saviour was born unto them but told  
them that they personally could find Him "laid in a manger"  
what a curious site. Strange place to find a baby. We tell sinners  
to that that a saviour can be found, where? in bed cage, on power throne not  
made helpless a beggar...

II. The Gospel Was Respected too by Them (vs 15-16)

A. How do you think they responded to this spectacular  
heavenly display. How awesome! Lets get back to work! Sheep straying  
No! <sup>Word</sup> a momentary discussion they look the messenger at this

B. They Listened to the Saying - Maybe after  
a momentary discussion, they took off to see for  
themselves these things. They received what the angels  
said. The gospel message is not always received. Jesus spoke  
of stony ground hearers... They see this cross gospel foolish  
ness 1 Cor 1:18 But as these shepherds, so to sleep listen aside

C. They Left the Sheep - They did not say  
well when my shift is over and we go get a midnight bite  
taste at Waffel House then we'll go attempt to find them. No  
right then they left the sheep and set out to find Christ! What  
a picture of repentance. To turn from living a life...

Luke 5:11 Disciples, Luke 13:3 Except.. Acts 17:30 <sup>common</sup> God

Today is the day of Salvation, if ye hear his voice... <sup>Luke 9:33</sup> Deny yourselves

D. They Located the Saviour vs 16 - These  
Shepherds didn't have to far out search all night

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;

Luke 5:11 ...they forsook all, and followed him.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Mark 8:18-20 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil played him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that  
cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

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marvel.

The Bible didn't say they knocked on every door  
scratched their heads took out a map. No. God led them  
w/haste... The same is true with a lost sinner receptive  
responsive to gospel call, God will not play peek-a-boo w/you  
God will not disguise you step off faith to see Him In 6:37

### III. The Gospel Was Resounded by Them (vs 17-18)

A. When they had experienced it themselves, then  
you could hear the evangelists echo. They began to gossip  
the gospel. It was resounded from their echoes

B. The Story was Shared - They began  
to publish these good tidings that they them-  
selves had experienced to all that they came in  
contact with. This is so natural for us to do in  
general. Visiting with Mrs. Kline, she told us of something  
that was helping her sleep. A Lever 200 bar of soap under the  
pillow... Others told her of restful sleep they experienced  
that she then experienced that she hope we will experience  
But Ah How Satan loves to rob us of this desire of gospel  
spreading. I remember 9 yrs old... 21 years old what a diff!

C. The Story was Studied - People were  
alarmed. They marveled. When I say that  
they studied on these things I mean not that  
they went on a fact finding mission, but they stopped  
and thought on these things. They reflected, what  
is this all about? Something must have happened

This same word wondered here is translated marveled in NKV.  
Our greatest hope as disciples is that by our lives and  
our verbal witness that we may cause others to wonder  
and think on these things. For set to... then



...shadow had become substance. The whole world now looked different. After this encounter with the Messiah, the deliverer, the Lamb of God, those little lambs never looked the same again. Oh how true it is for the believer in Christ, the world begins to make since.

Spurgeon

If you have seen Jesus with the God-giving sight of faith, suffer no cobwebs to linger among the harpstrings, but loud to the praise of sovereign grace, awake your psaltery and harp... Let us copy them; let us also raise a song of thanksgiving that we have heard of Jesus and His salvation....Have you not found the gospel to be in yourselves just what the Bible said it would be? Jesus said He would give you rest--have you not enjoyed the sweetest peace in Him? He said you should have joy, and comfort, and life through believing in Him--have you not received all these?